

REMARKS

By this Amendment the abstract has been amended to better comply with U.S. practice, the specification has been amended to improve its presentation, and claim 3 has been revised to better define the inventive subject matter. Entry is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 58-083420 in view of Cordova et al.

This rejection must be withdrawn. In this regard, JP 58-083420 discloses a safety helmet which includes an outer layer member 5, an inner layer 6, and layers 1, 2 and 3 therebetween, layer 1 being a strong layer made of glass cloth and cured epoxy resin, layer 2 being shock absorbing and made of three layers of non-woven fabric and cured epoxy resin, and layer 3 being a strong layer made of glass cloth and cured epoxy resin. As recognized by the examiner, there is no disclosure of a net member between any of the layers of non-woven fabric.

Cordova et al. disclose an armor system which includes a first pliable, cut resistant fibrous layer and a second pliable, impact/ballistic energy-absorbing fibrous layer, the first layer including a plurality of uncoated non-woven networks of randomly oriented fibers or an uncoated knotted network of fibers, and the second layer including a plurality of networks selected from a loosely woven network of fibers, an open network of fibers, a braided network of fibers and a non-woven network

of oriented fibers. The layers of the system must be pliable (col. 11, lines 63-64), and they can be stitched together to maintain the pliability of the armor system (col. 13, lines 3-4).

The examiner asserts that it would be obvious to utilize the open knotted thermosetting or thermoplastic fibers of Cordova et al. between the first and second non-woven layers of the intermediate layer of JP '420 so as to provide a helmet of increased strength and puncture resistance. However, this conclusion is totally without merit. If the fibers of Cordova et al. were employed in JP '420, they would become rigidly embedded therein, and according to Cordova et al. it is imperative that the layers be pliable. So it would not be obvious to make the substitution that the examiner has proposed.

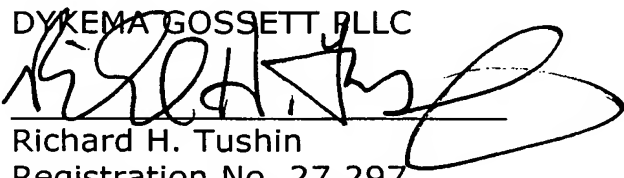
It is submitted that the amended claims define allowable subject matter.

A prompt passage to issuance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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